## ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

The invention provides a binding polypeptide, or functional fragment thereof, comprising a  $k_{on}$  of at least about 9 x 107 M-1s-1 for associating with a ligand and 5 having therapeutic potency. The invention also provides a method of determining the therapeutic potency of a binding polypeptide. The methods consist of (a) contacting a binding polypeptide with a ligand; (b) measuring association rate for binding between the 10 binding polypeptide and the ligand, and (c) comparing the association rate for the binding polypeptide to an association rate for a therapeutic control, the relative association rate for the binding polypeptide compared to the association rate for the therapeutic control 15 indicating that the binding polypeptide will exhibit a difference in therapeutic potency correlative with the difference between the association rates.